of sin, and yet be as unseen in the one case as the other? And there is a manifest congruity in the circumstance, that this agent conducts his work so silently and imperceptibly. It is only by such a mode of procedure that the spirit of man can retain its separate action and freedom. There is no violence done to man's nature in the supernatural work carried on in the heart. The dealings of God are, in every respect, suited to the essential and indestructible principles of man's nature. "I drew them with the cords of a man, with the bands of love."

V. Given a fallen race; to set them on a CAREER OF ACTIVE OBEDIENCE—is a problem which all reformers and philanthropists of the highest order have been endeavouring to solve, and with but very meagre success. Revelation professes to have solved it, and it propounds the following constructions:—

(1.) It provides a pacified conscience and a pacified God, and both pacified in agreement with the law of their nature. Other and mere human systems make, and can make, no such provision, and hence their partial failure. Under a reproaching conscience, the mind feels an awkwardness in all the services which it would pay to God. When the servant is conscious of having given offence to his master, there will always be somewhat of constraint in the obedience rendered, till such time as he has made confession of guilt, and obtained forgiveness. There is a restraint proceeding from a like cause, in the service which the sinner, labouring under an unpacified conscience, would pay to God. Besides, when he has no reason to think that his past offences have been forgiven, he feels as if all future exertions must be utterly fruitless. After he has done his utmost, he feels that he has not fulfilled that law of God which is so straight, and so unbending just because it must be straight. Climb as he may the height of perfection, he sees the summit rising still above him, wrapped in darkness and lurid with flame. After he has

made some great exertion, he looks to the law to see if it will give him a smile of approbation, and he beholds only a darkening frown upon its face. Lashed by conscience, he makes greater and yet greater struggles, only to feel all his toilsome labours to be like those of one labouring under a load which is crushing him to the ground, or like the convulsive struggles of a drowning man, whose efforts are sinking him more speedily in the waters.